

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: SEPT 21 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. BROWNE (NYT) WRITES FROM KOMPONG CHAM THAT SHELLING NOW SPORADIC AND TOWN NO LONGER IN DANGER OF BEING OVERRUN BUT STILL SURROUNDED AND SUFFERING. LOCAL COMMANDER SAYS TEXTILE FACTORY, DONATED BY PRC 10 YEARS AGO AND STILL HELD BY KI, WAS BURNED DOWN AT BEHEST OF NVA OVER OBJECTIONS OF KI. DESPITE LARGE NUMBERS ENGAGED, FANK CLAIMS IT CAPTURED ONLY 3 PRISONERS. KI PRESSURE ON AIRPORT CONTINUES. GREENWAY (WP), ALSO AT KOMPONG CHAM, REPORTS THAT TOWN BEGINNING TO REGAIN SOME ASPECTS OF NORMAL LIFE DESPITE OCCASIONAL SHELLS, WITH CROWDED STREETS, SHOPS RE-OPENING, MUCH RUBBLE CLEARED AND PEOPLE LESS APPREHENSIVE. FANK SLOWLY EXPANDS PERIMETER (ALSO AP; UPI). RICE SUPPLY IS ADEQUATE WITH MORE COMING FROM PP VIA RIVER. ONLY MINOR WOUNDS TREATED LOCALLY BUT NOT ENOUGH HELICOPTERS AVAILABLE SO MANY CASES STILL EVACUATED BY WATER. GREENWAY SAYS MANY WITH MONEY REPORTEDLY BUYING PASSAGE TO PP BY CHOPPER, QUOTES ONE CREWMAN THAT HE HAS RECEIVED UP TO EQUIVALENT OF 60 DOLLARS PASSAGE PER HEAD. ALSO QUOTES MONK THAT KI WERE SUPPORTED BY VIETNAMESE WHO HID DURING DAY, AND IN EACH CAPTURED VILLAGE KI ASKED CHIEF TO RECRUIT 10 TO 30 SOLDIERS FOR INSURGENTS.

SX

2. STRATHDEE (REUTER) FROM PP SAYS KI AGAIN ATTACKING KOMPONG CHAM AIRPORT (ALSO CSM) WHERE 25 REBELS REPORTEDLY KILLED SEPT. 17. QUOTES FANK THAT BETWEEN AUG. 17 AND SEPT. 19 AT KOMPONG CHAM, 202 GKR SOLDIERS AND 17 CIVILIANS KIA, 972 SOLDIERS AND 41 CIVILIANS WIA, AND 225 KI BODIES FOUND ON BATTLEGROUND; POINTS OUT THAT THESE FIGURES CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN EARLIER ESTIMATES BY GENERAL SAR HOR OF 6000 ON GKR SIDE AND 2000 KI KILLED AND WOUNDED. GKR STATES CAPTURED KI BATTLE PLAN ORDERED KOMPONG CHAM BE TAKEN "AT ALL COSTS" DURING ALGIERS NAC
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(ALSO NYDN). REBELS STILL HOLD TEMPLE AND TEXTILE FACTORY ON OUTSKIRTS.

3. FANK SAYS ROADBLOCK ON ROUTE 1 CLEARED WITH ROAD NOW OPEN TO NEAK LUONG (BROWNE, NYT; NYDN; REUTER). KI TIGHTEN GRIP ON ROUTE 5 TO BATTAMBANG, NOW HOLD NEARLY 4 MI (UPI; AP). FANK RELIEF COLUMN MOVING TOWARD SURROUNDED VIHEAR SUOR 13 MI. NE

OF PP, BUT HIGH WATER HAMPERING BOTH SIDES (AP).

4. 72-OLD MOTHER OF SIHANOUK HOSPITALIZED IN PP WITH REPORTED HEART PROBLEM BROUGHT ON BY DIABETES (WP; NYT; UPI). DOCTORS REPORT CRISIS OVER AND THAT QUEEN'S RECOVERY WILL TAKE A FEW WEEKS (WP).

5. GVN SPOKESMAN SAYS MRS. NGO BA THANH, SVN WOMEN'S LEADER AND HEAD OF SEVERAL ANTI-WAR AND ANTI-THIEU GROUPS, WILL BE FREED WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS ALONG WITH 3 LABOR LEADERS. MRS. THANH, WHO REPORTEDLY HAS ABSTAINED FROM SOLID FOOD FOR THE 5 MONTHS IN PROTEST, IS EXPECTED TO GO TO US TO ACCEPT TEACHING POSITION AT COLUMBIA; 4 MONTHS AGO SHE REFUSED EXCHANGE TO VC ON GROUNDS SHE IS NOT A COMMUNIST (BUTTERFIELD, NYT; UPI; NYDN; AP, WP; REUTER). UNCLEAR HOW MUCH PRESSURE AMEMBASSY MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT TO OBTAIN RELEASE BUT AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE INFORMED IN ADVANCE (BUTTERFIELD).

6. GVN, IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO 12 NATIONS THAT GUARANTEED C-F, PROTESTS HANOI'S AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION IN SVN (AP; UPI; CSM; SUN; PETERSON, REUTER). C-F VIOLATIONS IN PAST 24 HOURS LOWEST SINCE JULY 10 (NYDN). ARVN 83-TRUCK CONVOY AMBUSHED ON QUI NHON-PLEIKU ROAD IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WITH 3 KILLED, 3 WOUNDED. 27 COMMUNISTS REPORTED KILLED, 4 ARVN KIA AND 4 WIA IN CONTINUING BATTLE FOR RICE-GROWING

AREAS NEAR KONTUM (REUTER).

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7. REUTER REPORTS FROM PARIS (SEPT. 21) THAT GOJ AND DRV SIGN FORMAL DOCUMENT ESTABLISHING FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS; DETAILS TO BE PUBLISHED LATER.

CHINA

8. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR US-CHINA TRADE URGES HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE APPROVE TITLE V IN PRESIDENT'S TRADE BILL WHICH WOULD GIVE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY TO GRANT PRC MFN. COUNCIL PRES. PHILLIPS WRITES COMMITTEE THAT MFN NECESSARY FOR EXPANSION US TRADE WITH CHINA; WITHOUT FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNED FROM EXPORTS TO US, PRC UNABLE MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PURCHASES OF US GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY (JOC).

9. ADDRESSING SAN FRANCISCO GATHERING OF 650 WORLD FINANCIAL LEADERS ON HIS RECENT ASIA TRADE VISITS, PACIFIC BASIN ECONOMIC COUNCIL PRES. CLARKE SAYS WHEN AND IF CHINA RESOLVES ITS DILEMMA OF GOING EASY-CREDIT ROUTE OR BROADENING ITS LONG-TERM INCOME-EARNING CAPABILITIES, ALL INDICATIONS ARE ITS MASSIVE TRADE POTENTIAL WILL GROW VERY RAPIDLY (JOC).

JAPAN

10. TOYO KOGYO'S MAZDA SELLING IN US ONLY FOR PAST 27 MONTHS; BUT GENERAL-MANAGER OF MAZDA MOTORS OF AMERICA PREDICTS "WE'LL SELL AT LEAST 240,000 CARS" IN US NEXT YEAR -- "OR DOUBLE WHAT WE'LL SELL IN 1973." PROSPECTS SO BRIGHT THAT MAZDA EXPECTED TO BEGIN ASSEMBLING CARS IN US WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS (PHINQ'S DOLE).

INDONESIA

11. HOWARD P. JONES, US AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA 1958 - 1965, DIED TUESDAY AT HOME IN ATHERTON, CALIF. (WP, HAILEY).

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12. COMMONWEALTH OIL REFINING CO. ANNOUNCES IT HAS CONTRACT WITH PERTAMINA FOR DELIVERY OF LARGE UNCLASSIFIED

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VOLUMES OF LIGHT CONDENSATE CRUDE OIL OVER 20 YEARS (WSJ, JOC).

PHILIPPINES

13. DEFSEC. ENRILE SAYS PHIL MARTIAL LAW WILL CEASE OPERATING SOON AS OBJECTIVES OF "NEW SOCIETY" ATTAINED, BUT GIVES NO INDICATION HOW LONG THIS WILL TAKE. MAINTAINS YEAR OF MARTIAL LAW "HAS ACHIEVED MORE THAN WHAT WE ANTICIPATED" (AP, WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

14. NOYES (S-N, SEPT. 20) PONDERES DOS' POLICY- MAKING ROLE UNDER HAK. RECALLS THAT AT WH HAK MADE FOREIGN POLICY WITHOUT INTERFERENCE AND DOS HAD NO EFFECTIVE FUNCTION. PERHAPS THIS WAS NECESSARY SINCE WHAT HAD TO BE DONE --NOTABLY, LIQUIDATION OF SEA WAR AND REVERSAL OF SINO-US RELATIONSHIP -- "CALLED FOR AN UNUSUAL MEASURE OF SECRET DIPLOMACY

FROM WHICH NOT ONLY THE STATE DEPARTMENT BUT ALSO THE CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE NECESSARILY WERE EXCLUDED." FEELS NEXT FOUR YEARS WILL BE DEVOTED TO CONSOLIDATING FUNDAMENTAL ADJUSTMENTS IN US GLOBAL ALIGNMENTS AND PROMOTING BENEFITS, IN TERMS OF WORLD STABILITY, TRADE AND ARMS LIMITATION, THAT THEY WERE DESIGNED TO PRODUCE. "THE ESSENTIAL FACTOR -- THE NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH MAINLAND CHINA -- IS STILL FRAGILE, BUT UNDOUBTEDLY IS CAPABLE OF CULTIVATION. FOR ON THIS A VERY GREAT DEAL DEPENDS, INCLUDING THE PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN VITAL COMPETITIVE AREAS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF STABILITY IN EAST ASIA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A GENERATION." HOPEFULLY, HAK WILL INSTALL STRONG AND PERCEPTIVE PEOPLE IN KEY DOS JOBS AND BRING BUREAUCRACY'S RESOURCES INTO DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. THUS, AMONG DENIZENS OF FOGGY BOTTOM, MOST NERVOUS ARE THOSE WHO INHABIT SIXTH FLOOR WHO ARE "GOOD DEAL LESS SURE OF WHAT (HAK'S) APPOINTMENT

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... WILL MEAN FOR THEIR JOBS."

15. TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL'S BURNS, IN PEKING, SEES CLUES INDICATING MAO MAY CHOOSE NATIONAL DAY FOR HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN OVER 2 YEARS. OCT. ISSUE OF "CHINA RECONSTRUCTS" HAS ARTICLE AND ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS SHOWING FIREWORKS BURSTING OVER SQUARE OF HEAVENLY PEACE DURING MAO'S 1971 MAY DAY APPEARANCE. CITING OPINIONS IN PEKING THAT PUBLICATION OF FIREWORKS ARTICLE LESS THAN 2 WEEKS BEFORE NATIONAL DAY IS NO COINCIDENCE, BURNS SUGGESTS EVENING OF FIREWORKS WOULD PROVIDE "PERFECT SETTING" FOR MAO'S REAPPEARANCE. SAYS ANOTHER CLUE "STRONGLY SUGGESTING" CHAIRMAN'S

APPEARANCE IS FACT WORKERS HAVE BEGUN REPAINTING TIEN AN MEN, GIVING IT KIND OF THOROUGH FACE-LIFT IT RECEIVED BEFORE MAO'S APPEARANCES ATOP IT IN PAST. SEES "MORE PRACTICAL PURPOSE" SERVED BY MAO PUBLIC SHOWING AT THIS JUNCTURE: APPEARING ON TIEN AN MEN, FLANKED BY CHOU AND WANG, HE COULD GIVE HIS BLESSING TO NEW LINEUP IN MOST DRAMATIC WAY; EVENT ALSO WOULD PUT SEAL ON CHINA'S RETURN TO INSTITUTIONAL POLITICAL LIFE AFTER YEARS OF UNCERTAINTY AND UPHEAVAL (CSM). PROF. RALPH POWELL, REVIEWING TENTH CCP CONGRESS, SAYS PLA ROLE "CLEARLY HAS BEEN REDUCED." HOWEVER, CLOSER LOOK ACROSS ENTIRE PRC POWER SPECTRUM INDICATES MILITARY STILL HAS "HEAVIER HAND," ESPECIALLY IN PROVINCES AND AT REGIONAL LEVELS, THAN PARTY LEADERS WOULD LIKE; THUS, SEVERAL MORE YEARS OF

POLITICAL REBUILDING MAY BE NEEDED BEFORE PARTY AND GOVT. STRUCTURE IS STRONG ENOUGH FINALLY TO "PUT MILITARY BACK IN THEIR PLACE." MEANWHILE, SOVIETS SIT ACROSS BORDER WITH ALMOST 50 DIVISIONS, AIR WINGS AND MISSILE BATTALIONS, APPARENTLY STILL HOPEFUL THAT, IN SUCCESSION STRUGGLE, PRO-SOVIET FACTION WILL SURFACE AND SEEK KREMLIN'S SUPPORT. "NEXT FEW YEARS, THEREFORE, WILL BE CRITICAL" TO MAO-CHOU LEADERSHIP (CSM).

16. IN ARTICLES DATED IN PEKING AND SHANGHAI, GRADY (BULLETIN, SEPT. 19) TELLS OF EUPHORIC ATMOSPHERE
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INDUCED BY EVERYTHING FROM PEOPLE'S DAILY'S GLOWING PAGE 1 REVIEW (AND LISTING OF VIPS IN ATTENDANCE) TO SHANGHAI AIRPORT RECEPTION AND APPLAUSE ON STREETS. CONTRIBUTING TO AFTERGLOW WERE COMMENTS BY "NICK PLATT, NO. 1 LIAISON OFFICER WITH PARTY", THAT ORCHESTRA "OBVIOUSLY HAS THE OFFICIAL STAMP OF APPROVAL", ESCORT FRANK TENNY'S REMARK THAT "IT'S ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED FOR A UNITED STATES GROUP OF ANY KIND TO GET THIS OFFICIAL PUBLICITY", PLUS LITTLE THINGS LIKE 10-COURSE BANQUETS AND SUCCESSFUL ACUPUNCTURE FOR ACHES AND PAINS. ORMANDY WAS IN SUCH HIGH SPIRITS, SAYS GRADY, HE COULD HAVE MADE THE TRIP FROM PEKING WITHOUT A PLANE.

17. CATCHING THE SPIRIT HIMSELF, GRADY WRITES OF "THE GREAT FRISBEE RIOT" (9/18) WHEN HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN JOINED A FEW PHILLY FRISBEE FLINGERS IN A PEKING COURTYARD. GRADY DESCRIBES "INSTANT AFFECTION" THAT MARKED ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN PHILADELPHIANS AND ORDINARY CHINESE EVERYWHERE -- WHETHER OVER MUSIC, FOOD, MAO-TAI OR SPORTS.

18. PHINQ'S WEBSTER NOTES PROPOSAL BY VICE-PRES. OF SHANGHAI'S CITY GOVT., DURING RECEPTION FOR ORCHESTRA PRECEEDING ITS FIRST CONCERT THURSDAY, THAT ENSEMBLE MAKE FURTHER TOURS OF CHINA TO EXPAND SINO-US UNDERSTANDING. ORMANDY REPLIED, "WE MUST COME BACK," FOR PRC TOUR HAS BEEN "POWERFUL TO OUR HEARTS," AND HE PROPOSED CHANCE TO RETURN CHINESE HOSPITALITY IN PHILA. CONCERT ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY AUDIENCE OF 1,800, WITH CITY OFFICIALS LEADING RHYTHMIC APPLAUSE AND ENSEMBLE AND CHINESE PIANO SOLOIST BOTH CALLED FOR ENCORES. WEBSTER SAYS ORCHESTRA MEMBERS ARE PRESSED TO KEEP TRACK OF THEIR EXPERIENCES IN CHINA. "THEIR HOSTS HAVE

MOVED THEM AROUND EFFICIENTLY, SEEING THAT THEY
TAKE BACK MEMORIES OF A SPLENDID HISTORIC, TRADITIONAL
PAST AND A VITAL NEW PRESENT." RECALLING ORCHESTRA'S
VISIT TO GREAT WALL, WEBSTER SAYS WALL "INCITES
IMAGINATION, EVEN AS IT IS CLIMBED. IT INVITES
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INSTEAD OF FORBIDS."

19. SCHOENBERG (NYT) SAYS ORCHESTRA PLAYED "FAMILIAR"
PROGRAM IN SHANGHAI THURSDAY NIGHT. AUDITORIUM
IS REMINISCENT OF GOOD EUROPEAN HALLS, SHOWED OFF
ORCHESTRA "TO EVEN BETTER ADVANTAGE," AND CONCERT
WAS DECIDED SUCCESS. ENSEMBLE WELCOMED CHANCE
TO TOUR SHANGHAI. IT IS CITY "EASY TO LOVE"; ITS
PEOPLE "ARE MUCH MORE EXTROVERTED AND FRIENDLY
THAN THOSE IN PEKING." AT LEAST ONE PLAYER "MADE
FRIENDS FOR AMERICA" BY INSTRUCTING 9-YEAR-OLD
VIOLINIST HE HEARD PRACTICING; AND WHEN PICTURES
WERE TAKEN, "THERE WAS NEAR PANDEMONIUM." IN ANOTHER
COLUMN, SCHOENBERG REPORTS THAT SO FAR 6 ORCHESTRA
PLAYERS AND ONE STAGE CREW MEMBER HAVE HAD ACUPUNCTURE
TREATMENTS, AND AFTER THEIR GLOWING REPORTS, MORE
SURE TO FOLLOW. BUT MEDICAL MEN IN ENTOURAGE DO
NOT SHARE GENERAL EUPHORIA, QUESTIONING WHETHER
NEEDLES ARE STERILE, ETC.

20. ALLAN GOODMAN OF CLARK U DOUBTS DRV WILL ATTEMPT
TAKE-OVER BY INVASION OF SVN, LAOS OR CAMBODIA.
ENORMITY OF REFUGEE AND RECONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS
THERE ARE FAR BEYOND HANOI'S ABILITY TO MANAGE,
GIVEN MAGNITUDE OF DESTRUCTION IT HAS SUFFERED
AS WELL. THINKS NVN WILL FIND ITS CAUSE WELL SERVED
BY STRENGTHENING INDOCHINA COMMUNIST PARTIES, THUS
SECURING ITS WESTERN BORDERS WITH RELIABLE SATELLITES
AND PROVIDING TIME TO IMPLEMENT ITS PLAN FOR POSTWAR
DEVELOPMENT. WHAT'S AHEAD FOR INDOCHINA MAY DEPEND
ON WHETHER, IN ABSENCE OF INVASION, NON-COMMUNIST

GOVERNMENTS CAN MAKE CRUCIAL POLITICAL AND ECON
CHANGES TO PREVENT THEIR COLLAPSE (CSM).

21. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND, IN MANILA, FINDS THAT WHILE
THERE OBVIOUSLY ARE PLENTY OF FILIPINOS WHO REGRET
LOSS OF COUNTRY'S "RAMBUNCTIOUS" PRESS AND "ITS
FREE-SWINGING CONGRESS," MOST OF BUSINESSMEN COULD
NOT BE HAPPIER WITH MARTIAL LAW WHICH THEY CONTENT
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HAS GIVEN COUNTRY CHANCE FOR UNPRECEDENTED ECON BOOM. SAYS FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN INVESTING THERE APPARENTLY AGREE SINCE APPLICATIONS WITH PHIL BOARD OF INVESTMENT HAVE DOUBLED OVER PAST YEAR.

22. CSM WELCOMES NEWS THAT UNESCO IS PLANNING INTERNATIONAL SALVAGE OPERATION FOR GREAT TEMPLE OF BOROBUDUR IN JAVA, "ONE OF MANKIND'S GREAT CULTURAL TREASURES."

23. JOE ALSOP (WP, SUN) SEES DANGER THAT "PRACTICAL REWARDS" OF SOVIET DETENTE WITH US MAY BE "KICKED AWAY" THROUGH RUSSIA'S INCREASINGLY RUTHLESS SUPPRESSION OF DISSIDENTS. OBSERVES THAT USSR DESIRE FOR DETENTE WAS ALWAYS OPEN TO SPECULATION IT WAS TRANQUILIZER, "IN PREPARATION FOR EXCEEDINGLY ROUGH, TOUGH SOVIET ACTION ELSEWHERE -- AGAINST CHINA, FOR INSTANCE."

24. SUN'S MARGOT LYON, IN PARIS, WONDERS IF PRC GENUINELY FEARS USSR TO EXTENT CHINESE SAY. NOTES FRENCH ACCOMPANYING POMPIDOU TO PEKING SAY CHINESE TALKED AND ACTED AS IF THEY DO. LYON POINTS OUT THAT THIS EMPHASIS ON DANGER FROM OUTSIDE IS "CLASSIC WAY" TO ENCOURAGE CHINESE TO CLOSE RANKS AMONG THEMSELVES AND FORGET THEIR LONG INTERNAL CRISIS. CONCLUDES, IN ANY EVENT, THAT CHINESE PRESSURE ON POMPIDOU TO BEWARE SOVIETS IS UNLIKELY INFLUENCE GOV POLICY MUCH, FOR FRENCH NEED SOVIET FRIENDSHIP AND MARKETS. "PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT, FROM FRANCE'S POINT OF VIEW, CHINA LIES TOO FAR AWAY. HER DAY HAS NOT YET COME."

25. CSM'S SHAPIRO- IN HSINCHU, TAIWAN, RECOUNTS CASE OF 7 TUAPSE CREWMEN REMAINING IN ROC AND HIS UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO APPROACH THEM. THINKS POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR GRC'S UNWILLINGNESS TO LET THEM LEAVE IS FEAR SUCH MOVE WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS SIGNAL OF CHANGED ATTITUDES TOWARD SOVIET -- GRC HAVING REPEATEDLY MAINTAINED THAT ITS POLICY OF ANTI-COMMUNISM TOWARD BOTH PEKING AND MOSCOW IS INFLEXIBLE. ADDS THAT GRC NO DOUBT ALSO HOPES AVOID

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PUBLICITY ABOUT TUAPSE CASE OUT OF "SENSE OF EMBARRASS-

MENT"; SAILORS' DECISION TO "CHOOSE FREEDOM" WAS
WIDELY HAILED IN ROC PROPAGANDA AT TIME OF THEIR
DEFECTION, BUT FOR OVER TWO DECADES THEY HAVE BEEN
RESTRICTED IN MOVEMENTS AND HAVE GROWN DEJECTED
AND EMBITTERED. SAYS WITH GRC BLOCKING ALL CONTACT,
BASIC QUESTIONS REMAIN WHETHER THEY STILL WOULD
ELECT RESIDE IN US, RETURN TO RUSSIA, GO TO THIRD
COUNTRY OR ARE RESIGNED TO ENDING DAYS IN TAIWAN. RUSH

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